

Maryland Weekly Influenza Surveillance Activity Report

A summary of influenza surveillance indicators reported to DHMH for the week ending April 25, 2015

Prepared by the Office of Infectious Disease Epidemiology and Outbreak Response Infectious Disease Bureau – Prevention and Health Promotion Administration Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

The data presented in this document are provisional and subject to change as additional reports come in.

SUMMARY

During the week ending April 25, 2015, influenza-like illness (ILI) intensity in Maryland was MINIMAL and there was LOCAL geographic activity. The proportion of outpatient visits for ILI reported by Sentinel Providers remained similar to last week, while the proportion reported by Maryland Emergency Departments dropped. The proportion of MRITS respondents reporting ILI remained the same. The percentage of specimens testing positive at clinical laboratories decreased, with a majority of positives being influenza type B. The number of specimens testing positive at the DHMH lab increased. A total of 4 influenza-associated hospitalizations were reported. There were no respiratory outbreaks reported. Nationally, influenza activity continued to decline.

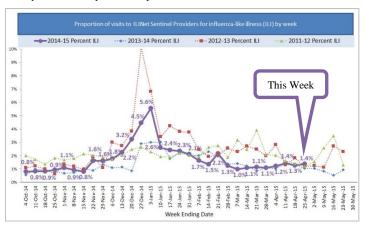
Click here to visit our influenza surveillance web page

ILI Intensity Levels		
✓ Minimal		
Low		
Moderate		
High		

Influenza Geographic Spread
No Activity
Sporadic
✓ Local
Regional
Widespread

ILINet Sentinel Providers

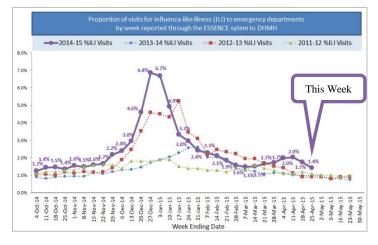
Twenty-five sentinel providers reported a total of 8,599 visits this week. Of those, 118 (1.4%) were visits for ILI. This is below the Maryland baseline of 2.0%.



ILI Visits To Sentinel Providers By Age Group	This Week Number (%)	Last Week Number (%)	Season Number (%)
Age 0-4	20 (17%)	31 (23%)	1387 (24%)
Age 5-24	52 (44%)	45 (33%)	2297 (40%)
Age 25-49	29 (25%)	34 (25%)	1253 (22%)
Age 50-64	12 (10%)	20 (15%)	549 (10%)
Age ≥ 65	5 (4%)	5 (4%)	263 (5%)
Total ILI Visits	118 (100%)	135 (100%)	5749 (100%)

Visits to Emergency Departments for ILI

Emergency Departments in Maryland reported a total of 50,179 visits this week through the ESSENCE surveillance system. Of those, 711 (1.4%) were visits for ILI.



ILI Visits To Emergency Departments By Age Group	This Week Number (%)	Last Week Number (%)	Season Number (%)
Age 0-4	211 (30%)	251 (28%)	8444 (25%)
Age 5-24	217 (31%)	245(28%)	10380 (30%)
Age 25-49	158 (22%)	239 (27%)	8975 (26%)
Age 50-64	72 (10%)	107 (12%)	3614 (11%)
Age ≥ 65	53 (7%)	48 (5%)	2630 (8%)
Unknown	-		3 (<1%)
Total ILI Visits	711 (100%)	890 (100%)	34046(100%)

Other states' influenza information:

Delaware http://dhss.delaware.gov/dph/epi/influenzahome.html

District of Columbia http://doh.dc.gov/service/influenza

Pennsylvania http://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/influenza (flu)/14161

Virginia http://www.vdh.state.va.us/Epidemiology/flu/

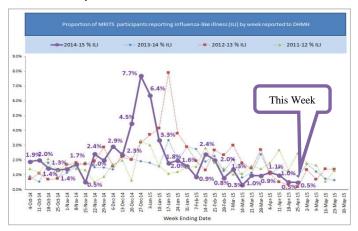
West Virginia http://dhhr.wv.gov/oeps/disease/flu/Pages/fluSurveillance.aspx

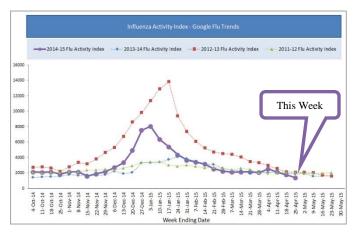
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Community-based Influenza Surveillance (MRITS and Google Flu Trends)

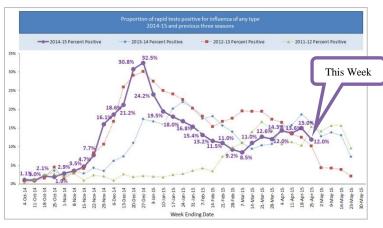
MRITS is the Maryland Resident Influenza Tracking System, a weekly survey for influenza-like illness (ILI). A total of 615 residents responded to the MRITS survey this week. Of those, 3 (0.5%) reported having ILI and missing a cumulative 3 days of regular daily activities. According to Google Flu Trends, influenza activity is "Minimal" in Maryland.



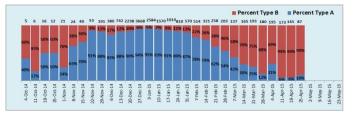


Clinical Laboratory Influenza Testing

Twenty-eight clinical laboratories reported performing 728 influenza diagnostic tests, mostly rapid influenza diagnostic tests (RIDTs). Of those, 87 (12.0%) were positive for influenza. Of those testing positive, 9 (10.3%) were influenza Type A and 78 (89.7%) were influenza Type B. The <u>reliability of RIDTs</u> depends largely on the conditions under which they are used. False-positive (and true-negative) results are more likely to occur when the disease prevalence in the community is low, which is generally at the beginning and end of the influenza season and during the summer.

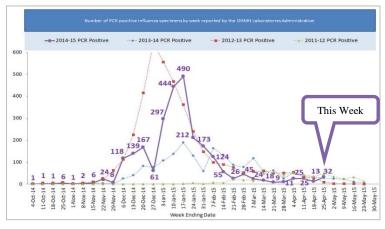


Positive Rapid Flu Tests by Type	This Week Number (%)	Last Week Number (%)	Season Number (%)
Туре А	9 (10%)	9 (6%)	13908 (84%)
Туре В	78 (90%)	136 (94%)	2602 (16%)
Total	87 (100%)	145 (100%)	16510(100%)



State Laboratories Administration Influenza Testing

The DHMH Laboratories Administration performed a total of 86 PCR tests for influenza and 32 (37.2%) specimens tested positive. Of those 28 (87.5%) were Type B, 3 (9.4%) were Type A (H1N1) and 1 (3.1%) was Type A (H3N2). PCR testing is more reliable than RIDT. The DHMH testing identifies subtypes of influenza A, information that is not available from the RIDT results. The table below summarizes results by type and subtype.



Positive PCR Tests by Type (Subtype)	This Week Number (%)	Last Week Number (%)	Season Number (%)
Type A (H1)	3 (9%)		6 (<1%)
Type A (H3)	1 (3%)		2384 (93%)
Туре В	28 (88%)	13 (100%)	166 (6%)
A (H3) – B Dual Infection			2 (<1%)
Total	32 (100%)	13 (100%)	2558 (100%)

Where to get an influenza vaccination

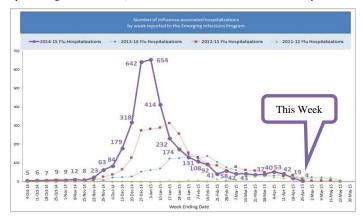
Interested in getting a flu vaccine for the 2014-15 influenza season? Go to http://dhmh.maryland.gov/flumd/SitePages/getvaccinated.aspx and click on your county/city of residence. You will be redirected to your local health department website for local information on where to get your flu vaccine.

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Influenza-associated Hospitalizations

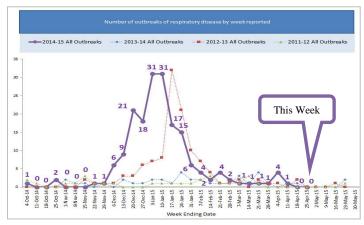
For this week, hospitals in Maryland reported 4 influenza-associated hospitalizations. (A person with an overnight hospital stay along with a positive influenza test of any kind, e.g. RIDT or PCR, is considered an "influenza-associated hospitalization" for purposes of influenza surveillance.)



Influenza- Associated Hospitalizations by Age Group	This Week Number (%)	Last Week Number (%)	Season Number (%)
Age 0-4		3 (16%)	177 (5%)
Age 5-17	1 (25%)		89 (3%)
Age 18-24			78 (2%)
Age 25-49		2 (11%)	381 (11%)
Age 50-64	1 (25%)	5 (26%)	596 (17%)
Age ≥ 65	2 (50%)	9 (47%)	2228 (63%)
Total	4 (100%)	19 (100%)	3549 (100%)

Outbreaks of Respiratory Disease

There were no respiratory outbreaks reported to DHMH this week. (Disease outbreaks of any kind are reportable in Maryland. Respiratory outbreaks may be reclassified once a causative agent is detected, e.g. from ILI to influenza.)



Respiratory Outbreaks by Type	This Week Number (%)	Last Week Number (%)	Season Number (%)
Influenza	-	-	126 (70%)
Influenza-like Illness			36 (20%)
Pneumonia	-	-	18 (10%)
Other Respiratory	-	-	
Total	-	-	180 (100%)

National Influenza Surveillance (CDC)

During week 16 (April 19-25, 2015), influenza activity continued to decrease in the United States.

- Viral Surveillance: Of 8,294 specimens tested and reported by U.S. World Health Organization (WHO) and National Respiratory and Enteric Virus Surveillance System (NREVSS) collaborating laboratories during week 16, 542 (6.5%) were positive for influenza.
- O Pneumonia and Influenza Mortality: The proportion of deaths attributed to pneumonia and influenza (P&I) was below the epidemic threshold.
- O <u>Influenza-associated Pediatric Deaths:</u> Five influenza-associated pediatric deaths were reported.
- Influenza-associated Hospitalizations: A cumulative rate for the season of 64.3 laboratory-confirmed influenza-associated hospitalizations per 100,000 population was reported.
- Outpatient Illness Surveillance: The proportion of outpatient visits for influenza-like illness (ILI) was 1.4%, which is below the national baseline of 2.0%. Two regions reported ILI at or above region-specific baseline levels. Puerto Rico experienced low ILI activity; New York City and 49 states experienced minimal ILI activity; and the District of Columbia and one state had insufficient data.
- O Geographic Spread of Influenza: The geographic spread of influenza in three states was reported as widespread; Guam and nine states reported regional activity; Puerto Rico and 14 states reported local activity; the District of Columbia, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and 21 states reported sporadic activity; and three states reported no influenza activity.

